

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

I am requesting funding for Project Healthy Grandparents in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Georgia State University, located at 33 Gilmer Street, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Research findings indicate children raised by grandparents are at increased risk of adverse psychological and developmental outcomes typically related to the reasons grandparents raise them (e.g., neglect, parental substance use, incarceration). As such, these children need professional and community support services (youth development and after-school programs, therapeutic summer camps, behavioral health services) to help mitigate the impact of their difficult life circumstances. These support services improve their likelihood of developing positive emotional, developmental, and educational outcomes. However, grandparents are often unaware of youth-serving resources and may lack the funds to cover even modest registration fees and transportation.


Since 1995, Atlanta-area grandparents and the children they care for have found a lifeline in Project Healthy Grandparents (PHG), a community program of Georgia State University. PHG's mission is to improve the health and well-being of families in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren in parent-absent homes. PHG has provided comprehensive health and social services to more than 3,450 grandparents and grandchildren through interventions by registered nurses and social workers, parenting education classes and support groups, legal service referrals, and early services for young children. PHG currently serves 130 children and adolescents and 40 families in the Atlanta metro community. The requested project will enable the PHG to serve an additional 50 children and adolescents and 20 families.

An investment of \$700,000 will enable Georgia State University's Project Healthy Grandparents to increase the number of families and children served by almost 50% and provide enhanced services to address the behavioral and developmental needs of children and adolescents. This is a good use of taxpayer dollars because children raised by grandparents are at increased risk of adverse psychological and developmental outcomes,

and support services improve their likelihood of developing positive emotional, developmental, and educational outcomes.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.”
Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikema Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress